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*File: [redacted]*

COUNTRY Libya

CIA

SUBJECT Prime Minister Mahmud Bey Muntasir/  
King's Fear of Assassination

DATE 25X1A2g

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Supplement to:

DATE ACQUIRED  
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Responsive to:

DATE (OF INFO) late summer and early fall 1953

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SOURCE

[redacted]

1. [redacted] <sup>then</sup> Prime Minister, Mahmud Bey Muntasir, he is a very knowledgeable man, and although he does not officially speak English, he actually speaks it quite well. He struck me as being a very capable administrator and the fact that he tried to resign over the British air bases question and they refused to let him resign, I think, is a good indication of his integrity and his value to the country.

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2. Officially, Tripoli is the capital of Libya, but [redacted] the King spends very little time in Tripoli indeed and spends most of his time at the family seat at Benghazi, the capital of the province of Cyrenaica. [redacted] it alleged by Englishmen familiar with that region that he stays in the region of Cyrenaica instead of residing in Tripoli because the King fears assassination — that there are Tripolitarians who object strenuously to a Cyrenaican King.

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